

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully considered the Office action of August 31, 2006. By way of this response, claims 17-20 have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

The Office action identifies two patently distinct inventions, namely, the invention of claims 1-16 (Group I), and the invention of claims 17-20 (Group II). Applicant hereby elects Group I (i.e., claims 1-16) for further prosecution in this case without traverse. Accordingly, claims 17-20 have been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a divisional application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed (if any) or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,
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January 15, 2009

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